

# PUBLIC WORKS



## Pipeline

2020

### Your Drinking Water Is Certified Safe



Monitoring done on Edina's and Minneapolis' drinking water last year shows that it is safe.

The City's goal is to provide residents with water that surpasses both state and federal requirements for safety and quality. This year's report shows Edina water surpasses regulatory standards on all counts. Morningside Neighborhood residents who receive their water from the City of Minneapolis will find information detailing the quality of Minneapolis' water.

Read the detailed report at:  
[EdinaMN.gov/2020WaterReport](https://EdinaMN.gov/2020WaterReport)

## New Map Shows Flood Risk for Each Property in Edina

By Debbie Townsend

Is your home at risk of flooding?

"Even if your home hasn't experienced flooding doesn't mean it's not possible. It's good to know your risk," said Engineering Services Manager Ross Bintner.

A new interactive map helps residents and property owners see their risk level from what's called surface flooding or over-the-land flooding. This is the flooding from storms, snowmelt and runoff.

"The map is new, the flood risk is not," said Water Resources Coordinator Jessica Wilson.

(continued on next page)



[EdinaMN.gov/Flooding](https://EdinaMN.gov/Flooding)

## New Map Shows Flood Risk for Each Property in Edina (continued)

“In the past, we had tables and maps,” Bintner said. Staff took advantage of technology advances to turn tables of dense data into a friendlier map. “This new map format is more visual and accessible.”

For any lot, the map shows if it’s in a flood area or not and at how big of a risk. Some lots could be flooded by a large storm (4.3 inches of rain over 24 hours), with a 10 percent annual chance of that

**‘The easiest thing that everyone could do first is consider flood insurance.’**

happening. For others, it might take an extreme storm (7.5 inches over 24 hours) with a 1 percent annual chance.

“In a 30-year mortgage period, there’s a 25 percent chance you’ll experience a flood in the 1 percent chance areas,” Wilson said. “In that same mortgage period, it’s 96 percent for a 10 percent storm.”

And for those whose property is not in a flood zone, don’t think you’re immune.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, 20 to 25 percent of flood claims occur outside of high-risk areas.

The Edina map details only surface flooding. Your home still could be at risk for groundwater flooding, when the land gets so saturated from overall precipitation in wet years that the water has nowhere to go. Record participation in 2019 is a perfect example.

“If you’ve got an older foundation that’s cracked or you’re near the groundwater table, then you could have water pouring into your basement from groundwater,” Wilson said.

Another flood risk is sanitary sewer backup.

There are too many variables to calculate those risks and display by lot, but people should keep them in mind when considering measures to protect or insure their property.

### Find Your Flood Risk

- Visit [EdinaMN.gov/Flooding](https://EdinaMN.gov/Flooding)
- Select the “What Is My Flood Risk interactive map.”
- Once at the map, put your address in the Parcel Search bar and click the magnifying glass. Or use the map to select lots.
- A detail box will pop up showing the address, flood risk and other information.
- To see the map legend, select the List icon. For more information, select the information icon on the far right.
- For measures you should consider taking to minimize flood risk or damage, return to [EdinaMN.gov/Flooding](https://EdinaMN.gov/Flooding) for fact sheets on a variety of options.



[EdinaMN.gov/Flooding](https://www.edinamn.gov/Flooding)



## Where to Start

First, find out your surface flooding risk. Visit [EdinaMN.gov/Flooding](https://www.edinamn.gov/Flooding) for the interactive map. (See previous page for details.)

“Some properties will obviously be in or out of a flood area. The ones on the fringe are difficult to determine,” Wilson said.

Once people know their flood risk, there are various steps they can take, some of them simple or inexpensive, to mitigate risk or insulate themselves financially.

**Flood insurance.** “The easiest thing that everyone could do first is consider flood insurance,” Wilson said. Homeowner or renter insurance usually doesn’t cover flood damage. People should check with their insurance agent or provider about what their policy covers. If you can’t get coverage through your insurer, call the National Flood Insurance Program at 800-427-4661.

**Move valuables.** If anything is irreplaceable, like a family heirloom, or of high value to you, move it off the floor.

**Sandbags.** The City fills and delivers sandbags for free; residents are responsible for putting them in place. Sandbags should be ordered and placed prior to flooding. (Keep reading for details.)

**Sump Pump.** Install or repair a sump pump. These are highly effective at keeping basements or lower levels of homes dry.

Other changes include installation of rain gardens or other landscaping to decrease flood risk.

“The best time to prepare for flooding is before the rain,” Bintner said as a gentle reminder to avoid procrastinating.

To learn more about these options and resources to do them, see the fact sheets at [EdinaMN.gov/Flooding](https://www.edinamn.gov/Flooding).

“We want people to know this resource exists,” Wilson said. “If they live in a flood area, we want them to be able to prepare.”

# Public Works Provides Residents Free Sandbags to Block Flooding



**Edina residents who need sandbags to protect their primary dwelling from flooding can get them filled and delivered for free from the Public Works Department. Sandbags are not delivered to protect backyards, fences, sheds and other structures in a floodplain.**

**In 2019, when Edina had a record level of precipitation, Public Works delivered more than 5,000 sandbags to residents, according to Public Works Coordinator Dave Goergen.**

## To obtain sandbags:

- Call 952-826-0375 during business hours. On weekends, call the police non-emergency line at 952-826-1610.
- Give your name, phone number, address and number of sandbags sought.
- If you're unsure about the number you might need, describe the area and Public Works will help determine the number.
- Sandbags will be delivered on a pallet at the end of your driveway, usually within 24 hours of the request.
- Residents are responsible for placing the sandbags where needed on their property. Public Works Department employees do not do this.
- When you no longer need the sandbags, you can keep them or place them back on the pallet in your driveway and call Public Works to pick them up.

## Tips for placing sandbags:

- Place at least 8 feet from the structure you are protecting, if possible, after first clearing the area of debris.
- Place bags lengthwise parallel to the direction of water flow with untied end tucked in and facing downstream.
  - Line up bags tightly against each other and walk on them as they are placed to compress and ensure a tight seal.
  - Overlap layers by half a bag length for stability.
  - Wall base should be at least two times wider than its height for walls higher than 1 foot.
  - See the fact sheet or video at [EdinaMN.gov/Flooding](http://EdinaMN.gov/Flooding) for details on building various wall types.

# Frequently Asked Questions

***I had water shooting up out of my lower-level toilets and a sewer gas smell. What happened? Who's going to clean it up?***

The City's Utilities Division cleans sewer main lines using high-pressure water. While conducting this activity, our machine can create positive and negative pressures in the sewer line. These pressures are normally released through the manholes and roof vents from the house's sewer line. If the house's vent line is obstructed, the pressures will take the path of least resistance. This path can be through your floor drain or toilet. Air is the only thing that gets released. However, it will move any standing water in its path and release sewer gas into your home.

This is not a common occurrence but does occasionally happen. Putting water in the drains in your house (especially lower-level floor drains) will stop the further release of sewer odor into your home. Clean-up is typically minor and is left to the homeowner. Keeping your sewer and vent line clean will help prevent this from happening and minimize the chances of a backup caused from a blockage. After cleaning your sewer line, please call the City's Utilities Division so staff can make sure the debris from your line won't block the main sewer line.

***How long does it take after flushing hydrants for my water to run clear?***

Generally, it takes two to six hours after flushing for the iron particles, which are heavier than water, to settle out of the water. It may help to turn your cold water on medium pressure in your laundry tub until the water clears up. Since the Utilities Department flushes from 7 a.m. to 2:30 or 3 p.m., it is a good idea to wait until early evening to do laundry. Always run a little water in your laundry tub first to make sure the water is running clear.

***When my drinking water is discolored, is it safe to drink? Is it safe for my newborn baby to drink? To bathe in? To wash laundry? Will it permanently stain my fixtures?***

Iron in the water is not pleasant looking and can have a "metallic" odor, but it is still well within the safety standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency. This extra iron is not harmful for adults or babies. If you feel uncomfortable drinking it, let the water run until it is clear. It is not going to harm your body in any way.

You may want to wait to do laundry until the water is running clear. The rust can stain your laundry. It is especially noticeable on white laundry. The City has a free product called Rover, which you can request and make arrangements

for pick up at the Public Works & Park Maintenance Facility or City Hall. It is to be used before drying any discolored laundry to remove rust.

– Compiled by Susan Waack

**Iron in the water is not pleasant looking and can have a "metallic" odor, but it is still well within the safety standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency.**



# Save Your Pipes. Don't Flush Wipes!

Disposable wipes labeled 'flushable' or 'biodegradable' have caused sewage backups for years.



## By Kaitlin Gault

At a time when everyday essentials like toilet paper may be harder to find at the store, keeping wipes out of the City's pipes is critical.

Disposable wipes labeled "flushable" or "biodegradable" have caused sewage backups for years. But now, with COVID-19, they've mistakenly been thought of as a "safe" substitute when toilet paper is hard to come by. Disinfecting and sanitizing wipes are also flying off the shelves and into the sewer system.

In 2019, 90 percent of sewer backups in Edina were caused by "flushable" wipes. An increase is anticipated due to COVID-19.

Although many companies creating disposable wipes use the label "flushable," they are not to be flushed. While a tempting replacement, these wipes are harmful to the City's sewer system, creating a public health issue.

Residents should only flush the three "Ps," which is human waste and toilet paper. Nothing else should be flushed, for any reason.

"Toilet paper is engineered to readily break down in water, unlike wipes labeled 'flushable,' which have high-stretch strength and are tear resistant," said Public Works Coordinator Dave Goergen. "They can catch on imperfections or joints in a pipe, build up into a 'ball' and cause blockage."

Goergen said the damage varies when a block occurs.

"It could be a little bit of water around a floor drain or it could be 3 feet of raw sewage in a basement," he said. "In the worst-case scenarios, damage costs can range between \$20,000 and \$30,000 for the property owner."

Other everyday items that should never be flushed and kept out of pipes include paper towels, makeup removing towelettes, cotton swabs, tampons, diapers, cooking grease, cotton balls and facial pads. Even facial tissue, which is seemingly thin and easy to flush, should never be flushed as its shape holds up well when submerged in water. These items should be tossed in the garbage – or compost, depending on what they are made of – where they belong.

The sewage backup process is simple. When sewer collection reaches a low area, it is collected in a lift station; basically, a tank with pumps in it. When the tank gets to a certain level, the pumps turn on to "lift" the sewage. Since the lift stations receive sewage from many different neighborhoods, there is a large volume of sewage that needs to be processed by a lift station. When a lift station pump is clogged by wipes and other non-flushable items, it doesn't function properly. When it doesn't function properly, raw sewage backs up into the system and multiple properties could be affected.

"Edina has 21 sanitary lift stations," said Goergen. "A lift station failure is a big deal and can be avoided with assistance from residents."

The Utilities Division recognizes that it takes more than help from residents leaving wipes out of pipes to keep its sewer system in good shape.

The Division is responsible for the 180 miles of sanitary sewer main, ranging in diameter from 9 to 33 inches. The smaller diameter pipes primarily found in residential areas are made from 3- to 4-foot sections of clay pipe. These shorter sections of pipe provide more

### **Toilet paper is engineered to readily break down in water, unlike wipes labeled 'flushable.'**

opportunities for wipes or grease to cause blockage.

Goergen and his team have made a concentrated effort to increase the maintenance of the sewer system in the past two years. The Division's goal in its Sewer & Sanitary Maintenance Policy is to clean all the City's sewers every three to five years.

This ongoing maintenance has helped reduce the number of backups annually, but Goergen believes ongoing education will help continue the trend downward.

The Division hopes to continue to work together with customers to keep sewage in pipes, not in basements. If it's not one of the three "Ps," when in doubt, leave it out and deposit into the garbage.

*For more information about the City's sewer services, contact Goergen at 952-826-0312 or [dgoergen@EdinaMN.gov](mailto:dgoergen@EdinaMN.gov).*

# 58<sup>th</sup> Street Improvements, Sidewalk Construction Around Edina is Underway

By Kaylin Eidsness

Every Minnesotan knows that summertime brings sunshine and road construction, including street and sidewalk projects in local neighborhoods.

## West 58th Street

This year, a portion of West 58th Street from Wooddale Avenue to Xerxes Avenue and a small part of France Avenue between West 58th and Minnehaha Creek will be reconstructed.

“We’re excited to make the improvements. They’re both well needed for transportation and utilities,” said Engineering Director Chad Millner. “We’re looking forward to completing the project.”

### The West 58th Street project includes:

- Complete reconstruction of roadway pavement
- Full installation of concrete curb and gutter

- Partial replacement of the watermain
- Complete replacement of the water services and curb stop
- Sanitary and storm sewer system improvements
- Traffic signal replacement at France Avenue
- Construction of a five-foot concrete sidewalk on the north side
- Construction of a six-foot concrete sidewalk on the south side

The driving lanes on West 58th were previously 30 feet wide and will be reduced to 22 feet wide to help slow down traffic, said Millner. He added that doing so may also move some traffic away from West 58th Street as people who don’t like slowing down find other routes to take.

Something residents may not notice is a very large storm water retention system that will be installed under a portion of West 58th as a part of the project. Senior Engineering Technician Derek

Northenscold said the system can hold up to 24,000 cubic feet of water.

“Instead of flowing into Minnehaha Creek, the water will slowly infiltrate through the sandy soil and it’s deep enough that it will recharge the aquifer,” he said of the system that will collect water from roughly 24 acres of land.

During a large rain event, Northenscold said the retention system would function like regular pipes until it had the capacity to accept more water.

The storm water retention system will help reduce localized flooding along Minnehaha Creek and in some backyards. Similar systems were installed in the White Oaks and Arden Park neighborhoods to help with flooding as well.

“I am really excited about the City installing one of these systems, because it has a lot of features that we as humans should be doing to protect and preserve the earth for generations to come,” added Northenscold.



**West 58th Street in Edina is being reconstructed this year.**

**The France Avenue project includes:**

- Partial reconstruction of roadway pavement
- Partial replacement of concrete curb and gutter
- Full replacement of watermain and water services
- Improvements to the storm sewer system
- Traffic signal replacement at West 58th
- Construction of a five-foot concrete sidewalk on the east side between West 57th and West 58th streets

Park Construction was awarded the contract for the project and included in their low bid was reconstruction of the Pamela Park south parking lot as well.

As with all construction projects, Millner understands the inconveniences to the residents.

“Street reconstructions are necessary, but that doesn’t make it easy for the people who live near them,” he said. “Once it’s all done, this project will certainly improve the road, and sidewalks, and no doubt make it better for everyone who uses it.”

Construction on the project will wrap up this fall. Next spring, crews will be back to make final touch-ups and finish landscaping.

*For more information about the West 58th Street reconstruction project, visit [BetterTogetherEdina.org](http://BetterTogetherEdina.org) or contact Northenscold, the project manager, at 952-826-0448 or [dnorthenscold@EdinaMN.gov](mailto:dnorthenscold@EdinaMN.gov).*

## Sidewalks

More than 10 sidewalk projects are underway this summer. They include everything from connecting existing trails to filling in sidewalk gaps to raising a crosswalk.

The sidewalk projects are funded by the City’s Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety Fund, which is a franchise fee that Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy customers pay that raises about \$1 million each year for sidewalk projects.

“These sidewalks are key to get people out of the streets,” said Millner. “We’re trying to fill in the missing gaps. From the benefit of healthy living and safety, building sidewalks is an important part of the Comp Plan and Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan.”

*For more information about sidewalk construction, contact Transportation Planner Andrew Scipioni at 952-826-0440 or [ascipioni@EdinaMN.gov](mailto:ascipioni@EdinaMN.gov).*

## Construction Projects

**A. West 58th Street sidewalk and shared-use path (Wooddale Avenue to Xerxes Avenue):** This project will be completed as part of the West 58th Street roadway reconstruction project. The pedestrian and bicycle paths will connect to existing trails in Pamela Park and to the future bus station for Metro Transit's E-Line Bus Rapid Transit service.

**B. France Avenue sidewalk (West 57th Street to West 58th Street):** Given its proximity, this sidewalk will also be constructed as part of the West 58th Street roadway reconstruction.

**C. Valley View Road sidewalk (Creek Valley Road to Valley Lane):** This sidewalk was petitioned by residents along Creek Valley Road east of Edina High School. This project will provide 37 properties a direct connection to the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail without having to cross Valley View Road.

**D. Valley View Road sidewalk (Moccasin Valley Road to Mark Terrace Drive):** This sidewalk was recommended as part of the City's Active Routes to School Plan. This project is the final stage of a three-year project to construct a sidewalk between the Valley View Road roundabout and Gleason Road.

**E. France Avenue pedestrian improvements (West 69th Street, Parklawn Avenue):** This project originated from requests submitted by residents. The goal is to improve safety and accessibility for pedestrians crossing France Avenue in the Southdale District. The work will include construction of new pedestrian curb ramps, crosswalk markings and accessible pedestrian signals. The City and Hennepin County are coordinating to design and complete this work.

**F. Tracy Avenue shared-use path (Valley Lane roundabout to Minnesota Highway 62):** This project fills a gap in the City's pedestrian and bicycle network. It will provide properties north of Highway 62 with a connection to the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail.

**G. City Hall raised crosswalk:** Raised crosswalks slow motorists and improve pedestrian accessibility. This crosswalk will replace the existing pavement markings between the City Hall parking lot and main entrance. In addition, the accessible parking stalls will be relocated closer to the building to improve safety and new bike racks will be installed.

**H. Vernon Avenue sidewalk (Arcadia Avenue to Minnesota Highway 100):** This sidewalk, adjacent to Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapel, will fill a network gap between a pedestrian crossing at the Highway 100 ramps and existing sidewalks on Vernon and Arcadia avenues.

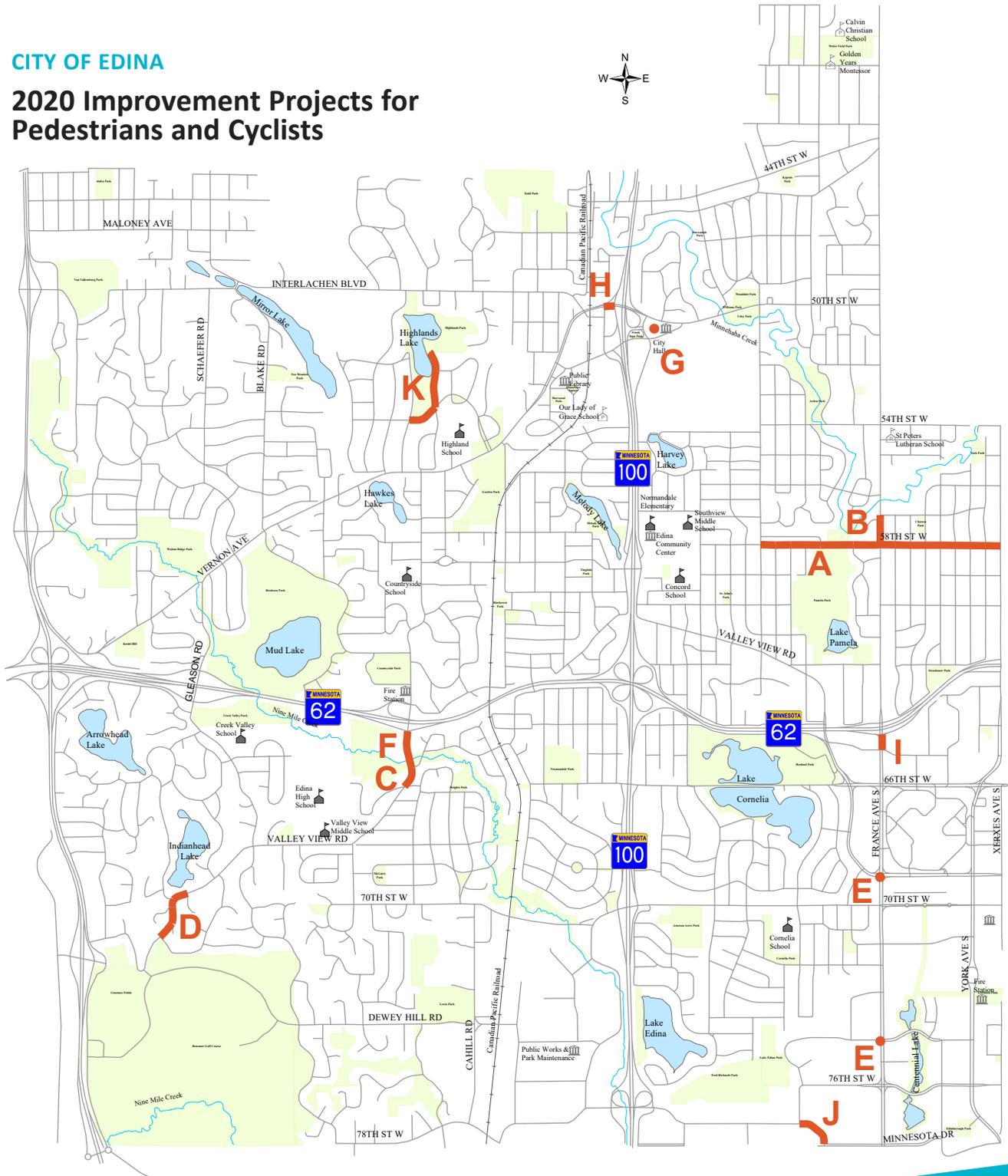
**I. France Avenue sidewalk (West 65th Street to Highway 62):** This project will fill a gap between existing sidewalks in the Southdale District and the France Avenue bridge over Highway 62. Pedestrian and bicycle paths on the bridge were upgraded as part of the redecking project last summer. M Health Fairview Southdale Hospital has provided the City with an easement to construct and maintain this sidewalk.

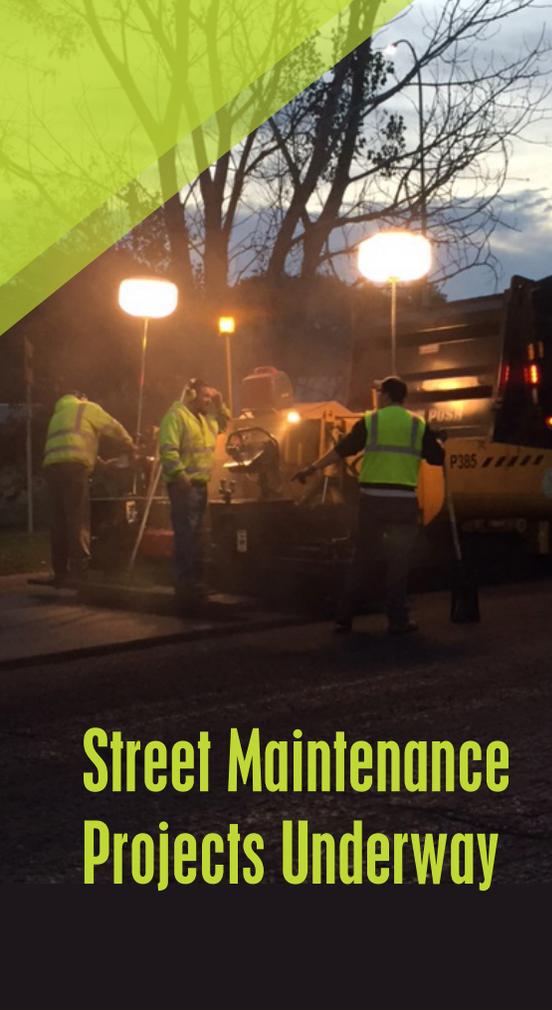
**J. West 77th Street sidewalk (Parklawn Avenue to Minnesota Drive):** This project will close the sidewalk gap between the new Twin Cities Orthopedics and Parklawn Avenue and provide an important path for transit riders in Pentagon Park.

**K. Highlands Park shared-use paths:** This project will construct a new bituminous path along the eastern edge of the park, connecting to the existing sidewalk on Doncaster Way and the park playground. The existing bituminous path along Ayrshire Boulevard between Doncaster Way and Glengarry Parkway will be upgraded to a wider, more comfortable space for pedestrians and bicyclists.

# CITY OF EDINA

## 2020 Improvement Projects for Pedestrians and Cyclists





## Street Maintenance Projects Underway

### By Kaitlin Gault

The Streets Division of Edina's Public Works Department has begun work on its annual mill-and-overlay projects.

The City aims to complete more than five lane miles of roadway this summer to help preserve existing roads, prolong the need for reconstruction and lower future costs. The Division plans to complete these projects as part of the City's Proactive Pavement Management Plan.

"The annual mill-and-overlay projects are necessary to upgrade roads with a new 'wearing course' -- the upper layer that has direct contact with traffic, which basically creates a new roadway," said City of Edina Streets Supervisor Shawn Anderson. "It increases the City's Pavement Condition Index (PCI), the metric that is used to determine a street's estimated lifespan and maintenance needs. Proper proactive maintenance allows us to extend the interval between major reconstructions from 20 to 30 years up to 50 to 60 years."

Neighborhood reconstruction projects are costly and can typically rise to several

thousand dollars per household, according to Anderson.

The mill-and-overlay process can take up to two weeks to complete per neighborhood and the program is a collaborative effort between the Utilities Division, Concrete Division, Engineering Department, private utility companies and the affected neighborhoods.

Anderson and his team try to complete the process in a timely manner to lessen the inconvenience to nearby neighbors. Prior to work beginning, Anderson's team mails letters to impacted neighborhoods describing the program and what to expect with the construction.

"Typically, residents can come and go without experiencing impacts," said Anderson. "The only time when it's really impactful is when crews are in the paving phase in front of a driveway, but this is completed in a short amount of time."

The City Council approved \$675,000 for the 2020 mill-and-overlay projects, which comes from the City's Street Maintenance Fund. The budget was slightly reduced this year to help minimize the expected impact to the City's tax levy due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are doing our best from a street and surface perspective," said Public Works Director Brian Olson. "It is our philosophy to be proactive instead of reactive when it comes to the community's street concerns. We try to keep our streets in a condition that meets the standards of our residents and minimizes the number of concerns we receive -- that's our goal."

*For more information about the mill-and-overlay projects, contact Anderson at 952-826-0313. To subscribe to receive email notifications about projects in your neighborhood, visit [EdinaMN.gov/CityExtra](http://EdinaMN.gov/CityExtra).*

This year's mill-and-overlay projects are:

- Gleason Road (Valley View Road to Dewey Hill Road)
- Market Street and Halifax Avenue (West 50th Street to France Avenue)
- Valley View Road (Washington Avenue to McCauley Trail)
- Valley View Road (West 66th Street to West 70th Street roundabout)
- West 66th Street (West Shore Drive to France Avenue)
- West 69th Street (Valley View Road to France Avenue)
- West 70th Street (Cahill Road to CP Rail Bridge)
- West 77th Street (Normandale Road to 240 feet east of Computer Avenue)
- West 78th Street (Cahill Road to CP Rail Bridge)
- Lincoln Drive (Londonderry Road to the cul-de-sac north of Dovre Drive)
- West Minnesota Highway 100 frontage road (Richmond Drive to Eden Avenue)
- Woodland Road (Wooddale to Wooddale Avenue 360 feet to the east)
- Streets in Todd Park Neighborhood (Moore Avenue, Laura Avenue, Cascade Lane and North Avenue south of West 44th Street)
- Brookside Court (Brookside Avenue to 360 feet west)

# 2019 City of Edina Drinking Water Report



Issued July 2020

## Making Your Water Safe

Your drinking water comes from a groundwater source: 17 wells ranging from 381 to 1080 feet deep, that draw water from the Prairie Du Chien-Jordan, Mt. Simon and Jordan aquifers.

Edina works hard to provide safe and reliable drinking water that meets federal and state water quality requirements. The purpose of this report is to provide information on your drinking water and how to protect our precious water resources.

Contact Dave Goergen, Public Works Coordinator, at 952-826-0312 or [dgoergen@EdinaMN.gov](mailto:dgoergen@EdinaMN.gov) if you have questions about Edina's drinking water. You can also ask how you can take part in decisions that may affect water quality.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water. This ensures that tap water is safe to drink for most people. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates the amount of certain contaminants in bottled water. Bottled water must provide the same public health protection as public tap water.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and

potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 800-426-4791.

## Edina Monitoring Results

This report contains our monitoring results from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2019.

We work with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants. It is not unusual to detect contaminants in small amounts. No water supply is ever completely free of contaminants. Drinking water standards protect Minnesotans from substances that may be harmful to their health.

Learn more by visiting the MDH's webpage Basics of Monitoring and Testing of Drinking Water in Minnesota ([www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html)).

## How to Read the Water Quality Data Tables

The tables below show contaminants we found last year or the most recent time we sampled for that contaminant. They also show the levels of those contaminants and the Environmental Protection Agency's limits. Substances that we tested for but did not find are not included in the tables.

We sample for some contaminants less than once a year because their levels in water are not expected to change from year to year. If we found any of these contaminants the last time we sampled for

them, we included them in the following tables with the detection date.

We may have done additional monitoring for contaminants that are not included in the Safe Drinking Water Act. To request a copy of these results, call the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318.

## Definitions

**AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements.

**EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency

**MCL (Maximum contaminant level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**MCLG (Maximum contaminant level goal):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**MRDL (Maximum residual disinfectant level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG (Maximum residual disinfectant level goal):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

N/A (Not applicable): Does not apply.  
 pCi/l (picocuries per liter): A measure of radioactivity.  
 ppb (parts per billion): One part per billion in water is like one drop in one

billion drops of water, or about one drop in a swimming pool. ppb is the same as micrograms per liter (µg/l).  
 ppm (parts per million): One part per million is like one drop in one million

drops of water, or about one cup in a swimming pool. ppm is the same as milligrams per liter (mg/l).  
 PWSID: Public water system identification.

## Monitoring Results - Regulated Substances

### LEAD AND COPPER – Tested at customer taps

Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Action Level	90% of Results Were Less Than	Number of Homes with High Levels	Violation	Typical Sources
Lead	0 ppb	90% of homes less than 15 ppb	1 ppb	0 out of 31	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper	0 ppm	90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm	0.93 ppm	0 out of 31	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.

### INORGANIC & ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS – Tested in drinking water

Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Limit (MCL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Picloram (2018)	500 ppb	500 ppb	0.11 ppb	N/A	NO	Herbicide runoff.
Barium	2 ppm	2 ppm	0.2 ppm	0.1410 - 0.1990 ppm	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Benzene	0 ppb	5 ppb	0.1 ppb	0.00 - 0.38 ppb	NO	Discharge from factories; Leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills.
Trichloroethylene (TCE)	0 ppb	5 ppb	0.18 ppb	0.00 - 0.18 ppb	NO	Discharge from metal degreasing sites and other factories.
trans-1,2-Dichloroethene (trans-1,2-dichloroethylene)	100 ppb	100 ppb	0.2 ppb	0.00 - 0.20 ppb	NO	Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories.
cis-1,2-Dichloroethene (cis-1,2-dichloroethylene)	70 ppb	70 ppb	4.2 ppb	0.00 - 4.30 ppb	NO	Discharge from chemical and agricultural chemical factories.
Vinyl chloride	0 ppb	2 ppb	0.35 ppb	0.00 - 0.35 ppb	NO	Leaching from PVC piping; Discharge from plastics factories.
Gross Alpha	0 pCi/l	15.4 pCi/l	7.8 pCi/l	0.0 - 7.8 pCi/l	NO	Erosion of natural deposits.
Combined Radium	0 pCi/l	5.4 pCi/l	4.5 pCi/l	1.5 - 4.5 pCi/l	NO	Erosion of natural deposits.

## CONTAMINANTS RELATED TO DISINFECTION – Tested in drinking water

Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG or MRDLG)	EPA's Limit (MCL or MRDL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	N/A	80 ppb	3.1 ppb	2.30 - 3.10 ppb	NO	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	N/A	60 ppb	2.1 ppb	1.20 - 2.10 ppb	NO	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Total Chlorine	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	1.35 ppm	1.07 - 1.40 ppm	NO	Water additive used to control microbes.

Total HAA refers to HAA5

## OTHER SUBSTANCES – Tested in drinking water

Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Limit (MCL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Fluoride	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.67 ppm	0.63 - 0.70 ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth.

### Potential Health Effects and Corrective Actions (If Applicable)

**Fluoride:** Fluoride is nature's cavity fighter, with small amounts present naturally in many drinking water sources. There is an overwhelming weight of credible, peer-reviewed, scientific evidence that fluoridation

reduces tooth decay and cavities in children and adults, even when there is availability of fluoride from other sources, such as fluoride toothpaste and mouth rinses. Since studies show that optimal fluoride levels in drinking water benefit public health, municipal community water systems adjust the level

of fluoride in the water to a concentration between 0.5 to 1.5 parts per million (ppm), with an optimal fluoridation goal between 0.7 and 1.2 ppm to protect your teeth. Fluoride levels below 2.0 ppm are not expected to increase the risk of a cosmetic condition known as enamel fluorosis.

## Monitoring Results – Unregulated Substances

In addition to testing drinking water for contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, we sometimes also monitor for contaminants that are not regulated. Unregulated contaminants do not have legal limits for drinking water.

Detection alone of a regulated or unregulated contaminant should not cause concern. The meaning of a detection should be determined considering current health effects information. We are often still learning about the health effects, so this information can change over time.

The following table shows the unregulated contaminants we detected last year, as well as human-health based guidance

values for comparison, where available. The comparison values are based only on potential health impacts to people and do not consider our ability to measure contaminants at very low concentrations or the cost and technology of prevention and/or treatment. They may be set at levels that are costly, challenging or impossible for water systems to meet (for example, large-scale treatment technology may not exist for a given contaminant).

A person drinking water with a contaminant at or below the comparison value would be at little or no risk for harmful health effects. If the level of a contaminant is above the comparison value, people of a certain age or with special health conditions - pregnant

women, infants, children, elderly and people with impaired immunity – may need to take extra precautions. Because these contaminants are unregulated, EPA and MDH require no particular action based on detection. We are notifying you of the unregulated contaminants we have detected as a public education opportunity.

More information is available on MDH’s A-Z List of Contaminants in Water ([www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/index.html)) and Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 4) ([www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/ucmr4.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/ucmr4.html)).

## Some People Are More Vulnerable to Contaminants in Drinking Water

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who

have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. The developing fetus and therefore pregnant women may also be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water. These people or their caregivers should seek

advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

### UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS – Tested in drinking water

Contaminant	Comparison Value	Highest Average Result or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results
Sodium*	20 ppm	29 ppm	14.90 - 29.00 ppm
Sulfate	500 ppm	25.3 ppm	5.17 - 25.30 ppm

\*Note that home water softening can increase the level of sodium in your water.

# 2019 City of Minneapolis Drinking Water Report

## Making Safe Drinking Water

Drinking water for the Morningside Neighborhood comes from a surface water source: surface water drawn from the Mississippi River.

Minneapolis works hard to provide safe and reliable drinking water that meets federal and state water quality requirements. Call 612-673-3000 if you have questions about Minneapolis's drinking water. You can also ask for information about how you can take part in decisions that may affect water quality.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water. This ensures that tap water is safe to drink for most people. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates the amount of certain contaminants in bottled water. Bottled water must provide the same public health protection as public tap water.

This report contains our monitoring results from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2019.

The City of Minneapolis works with the Minnesota Department of Health to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants. It is not unusual to detect contaminants in small amounts. No water supply is ever completely free of contaminants. Drinking water standards protect Minnesotans from substances that may be harmful to their health.

Learn more by visiting the Minnesota Department of Health's webpage Basics of Monitoring and Testing of Drinking Water in Minnesota ([www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html)).

## How to Read the Water Quality Data Tables

The tables below show the contaminants Minneapolis found last year or the most recent time there was sampling for that contaminant. They also show the levels of those contaminants and the Environmental Protection Agency's limits. Substances that we tested for but did not find are not included in the tables.

The City of Minneapolis samples for some contaminants less than once a year because their levels in water are not expected to change from year to year. If we found any of these contaminants the last time we sampled for them, we included them in the tables below with the detection date.

The City of Minneapolis may have done additional monitoring for contaminants that are not included in the Safe Drinking Water Act. To request a copy of these results, call the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## Definitions

**AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency

**MCL (Maximum contaminant level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**MCLG (Maximum contaminant level goal):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**MRDL (Maximum residual disinfectant level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that the addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG (Maximum residual disinfectant level goal):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**N/A (Not applicable):** Does not apply.

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** A measure of the cloudiness of the water (turbidity).

ppb (parts per billion): One part per billion in water is like one drop in one billion drops of water, or about one drop in a swimming pool. ppb is the same as micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ ).

ppm (parts per million): One part per million is like one drop in one million drops of water, or about one cup in a swimming pool. ppm is the same as milligrams per liter ( $\text{mg}/\text{l}$ ).

PWSID: Public water system identification.

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

## Monitoring Results – Regulated Substances

### LEAD AND COPPER – Tested at customer taps

Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Action Level	90% of Results Were Less Than	Number of Homes with High Levels	Violation	Typical Sources
Lead (10/15/18)	0 ppb	90% of homes less than 15 ppb	3.8 ppb	2 out of 50*	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper (10/15/18)	0 ppm	90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm	0.06 ppm	0 out of 50	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.

\*Follow-up testing revealed the source of lead to be localized at the faucet.

### CONTAMINANTS RELATED TO DISINFECTION – Tested in drinking water

Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG or MRDLG)	EPA's Limit (MCL or MRDL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	N/A	80 ppb	29.2 ppb	6.90 - 44.00 ppb	NO	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	N/A	60 ppb	29.7 ppb	1.10 - 49.00 ppb	NO	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.
Chloramine	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	3.22 ppm	2.70 - 3.50 ppm	NO	Water additive used to control microbes.

Total HAA refers to HAA5

### OTHER SUBSTANCES – Tested in drinking water

Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Limit (MCL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Fluoride	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.7 ppm	0.60 - 0.69 ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth.

### TREATMENT INDICATOR – Tested during treatment

Substance	Removal Required	Lowest Monthly Percent of Results in Compliance	Highest Test Result	Violation	Typical Sources
Turbidity	Treatment Technique	99.4	0.31 NTU	NO	Soil runoff.

### DISINFECTION BYPRODUCT INDICATOR – Tested in source water and in drinking water

Substance	Percent Removal Required	Range of Percent Removal Achieved	Average of Percent Removal Achieved	Violation	Typical Sources
Total Organic Carbon	25-30	53 - 67	61	NO	N/A

The percentage of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal was measured each month. The system met all TOC removal requirements, unless there is a “YES” in the Violation column.

## Monitoring Results – Unregulated Substances

In addition to testing drinking water for contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, we sometimes also monitor for contaminants that are not regulated. Unregulated contaminants do not have legal limits for drinking water.

Detection alone of a regulated or unregulated contaminant should not cause concern. The meaning of a detection should be determined considering current health effects information. We are often still learning about the health effects, so this information can change over time.

The following table shows the unregulated contaminants we detected last year, as well as guidance values for comparison,

where available. The comparison values are based only on potential health impacts to people and do not consider our ability to measure contaminants at very low concentrations or the cost and technology of prevention and/or treatment. They may be set at levels that are costly, challenging or impossible for water systems to meet (for example, large-scale treatment technology may not exist for a given contaminant).

A person drinking water with a contaminant at or below the comparison value would be at little or no risk for harmful health effects. If the level of a contaminant is above the comparison value, people of a certain age or with special health conditions – like pregnant women, infants, children, elderly, and

people with impaired immunity – may need to take extra precautions. Because these contaminants are unregulated, EPA and MDH require no particular action based on detection of an unregulated contaminant. We are notifying you of the unregulated contaminants we have detected as a public education opportunity.

More information is available on MDH's A-Z List of Contaminants in Water ([www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/index.html)) and Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 4) ([www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/ucmr4.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/ucmr4.html))

### UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS – Tested in drinking water

Contaminant	Comparison Value	Highest Average Result or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results
Manganese	100 ppb	0.61 ppb	0.00 - 1.31 ppb
Group of 6 Haloacetic Acids (HAA6Br)	N/A	1.09 ppb	0.00 - 2.73 ppb
Group of 9 Haloacetic Acids (HAA9)	N/A	20.38 ppb	2.18 - 41.80 ppb

## Some People Are More Vulnerable to Contaminants in Drinking Water

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. The developing fetus and therefore pregnant

women may also be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water. These people or their caregivers should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

## Learn More About Your Drinking Water

### Drinking Water Sources

Minnesota's primary drinking water sources are groundwater and surface water. Groundwater is the water found in aquifers beneath the surface of the land. Groundwater supplies 75 percent of Minnesota's drinking water. Surface water is the water in lakes, rivers and streams above the surface of the land. Surface water supplies 25 percent of Minnesota's drinking water.

Contaminants can get in drinking water sources from the natural environment and from people's daily activities. There are five main types of contaminants in drinking water sources.

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Sources include sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, pets and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants include salts and metals from natural sources (e.g. rock and soil), oil and gas production, mining and farming operations, urban stormwater runoff and wastewater discharges.
- Pesticides and herbicides are chemicals used to reduce or kill unwanted plants and pests. Sources include agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and commercial and residential properties.
- Organic chemical contaminants include synthetic and volatile organic compounds. Sources include industrial processes and petroleum production, gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

- Radioactive contaminants such as radium, thorium, and uranium isotopes come from natural sources (e.g. radon gas from soils and rock), mining operations, and oil and gas production.

The Minnesota Department of Health provides information about your drinking water source(s) in a source water assessment, including:

- How Edina is protecting your drinking water source(s);
- Nearby threats to your drinking water sources;
- How easily water and pollution can move from the surface of the land into drinking water sources, based on natural geology and the way wells are constructed.

Find your source water assessment at Source Water Assessments ([www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa)) or call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318.

### Lead in Drinking Water

You may be in contact with lead through paint, water, dust, soil, food, hobbies or your job. Coming in contact with lead can cause serious health problems for everyone. There is no safe level of lead. Babies, children under 6 years and pregnant women are at the highest risk. Lead is rarely in a drinking water source, but it can get in your drinking water as it passes through lead service lines and your household plumbing system. Edina is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but it cannot control the plumbing materials used in private buildings.

Ways to protect yourself from lead in drinking water:

1. Let the water run for 30-60 seconds before using it for drinking or cooking if the water has not been turned on in over six hours. If you have a lead service line, you may need to let the water run longer. A service line is the underground pipe that brings water from the main water pipe under the street to your home.
  - You can find out if you have a lead service line by contacting your public water system or you can check by following the steps at: [www.mprnews.org/story/2016/06/24/npr-find-lead-pipes-in-your-home](http://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/06/24/npr-find-lead-pipes-in-your-home)
  - The only way to know if lead has been reduced by letting it run is to check with a test. If letting the water run does not reduce lead, consider other options to reduce your exposure.
2. Use cold water for drinking, making food and making baby formula. Hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water.
3. Test your water. In most cases, letting the water run and using cold water for drinking and cooking should keep lead levels low in your drinking water. If you are still concerned about lead, arrange with a laboratory to test your tap water. Testing your water is important if young children or pregnant women drink your tap water.

- Contact a Minnesota Department of Health-accredited laboratory to get a sample container and instructions on how to submit a sample:  
Environmental Laboratory  
Accreditation Program  
([eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam](http://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam))  
MDH can help you understand your test results.
- 4. Treat your water if a test shows your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run.
- Read about water treatment units:  
Point-of-Use Water Treatment Units for Lead Reduction ([www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/poulead.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/poulead.html))

**Learn more:**

- Visit Lead in Drinking Water ([www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html))
- Visit Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water ([www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead))
- Call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791. To learn about how to reduce your contact with lead from sources other than your drinking water, visit Lead Poisoning Prevention: Common Sources ([www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/sources.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/sources.html)).